

support. Through just this one site, you can access the *Federal Register*, the *Congressional Record*, the *Commerce Business Daily*, and many more publications. It doesn't get more convenient than that."

In a May 15, 1998, letter to Public Printer Michael DiMario, Vice President Al Gore congratulated GPO "for the excellent customer service you are providing through your website." The Vice President said, "your organization continues to serve as an excellent model for other Federal agencies on how to provide an interesting and easy-to-use website, providing consumers hassle-free access to Government services. Your innovative web site encourages consumers to contact your agency and to take advantage of the many services which you provide."

The *Government Executive* award was one of many that have been won by *GPO Access*. Others include a 1994 Technology Leadership Award and the 1995 James Madison Award. In 1997, *GPO Access* and the Commerce Department jointly earned a Hammer Award from Vice President Gore's National Performance Review for creating the new electronic *Commerce Business Daily*, known as *CBDNet*.

Also, in a 1998 review of *GPO Access*, *Federal Computer Week* magazine said, "in a web environment overrun by sites that are the equivalent of a Hollywood movie set, where style takes precedence over substance, the GPO site stands out as an unassuming, information-rich offering."

Public Use Of Online Budget Jumped More Than 500 Percent

As President Clinton's Fiscal Year 1999 Budget was released for sale to the public in GPO bookstores and through telephone mail orders in early 1998, thousands of Americans were reviewing the individual budget documents through *GPO Access*.

The public's use of the online budget in 1998 contrasted sharply with the use of the online budget the year before. In 1997, the budget documents were released online the same day paper copies went on sale from GPO. At that time, first day sales were 7,918 copies while *GPO Access* hits for the budget documents were 10,149.

In 1998, the paper budget and the online documents were again released the same day. This time, however, 7,390 paper copies were sold, while *GPO Access* hits for the budget documents jumped to 64,428, an increase of 535 percent.

New Computer-To-Plate Technology Reduces Costs, Improves Quality

In 1998, GPO acquired state-of-the-art computer-to-plate technology that will dramatically reduce costs, improve press-ready plate quality, and expedite the processing of prepress work. The acquisition of the two computer-to-plate (CTP) systems for \$1.4 million will generate savings to the taxpayer of \$7.3 million in just 3 years. The new systems are scheduled to be fully operational in 1999.

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